

In support of SB 1095

February 23, 2023

Dear Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the housing committee:

My name is Marina Pujols. I am a mother of 3 children - 25, 19 and 9. I am a resident of Waterbury, Connecticut. I am also an ally of the Connecticut Justice Alliance, and mother of their Policy Director. I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

My children have attended schools in both New Haven and Waterbury. They've both also attended alternative schools. I've witnessed firsthand what the school-to-system pipeline looks like and how it impacts families. I am raising 2 young strong black men and a powerhouse latina daughter in a world where the odds are already against them in a school where there is a police presence. If you believe that parents should have a say in their kids' school life, this is an area where our opinions should really matter. If it makes even 1 kid feel unsafe, we have to address the issue.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration.

Thank you for your time,

Marina Pujols